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May 24, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Proposed merger between AT&T/T-Mobile USA, Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Expanding access to post-secondary educational opportunities is a core principle of Western Governors University. That is why we are eager to voice our support of AT&T's commitment to expand access to 4G LTE technology to 55 million more Americans.

Western Governors University is an online university driven by a mission to expand access to higher education through online, competency-based degree programs. The success of our university, and more importantly, our students depends on the ability for students to connect to faculty, courses, and to each other at times convenient for them. Connectivity and access to broadband technology is especially relevant for students in smaller towns and rural areas. Most of our students have careers and commitments at home but need access to online learning opportunities to expand their learning and employment opportunities.

WGU has flourished into a national university, serving over 25,000 students in all 50 states. Approximately 30% of our students live in rural communities. AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile will allow WGU – and other higher education institutions – to open new distance learning opportunities to even more eager students anxious for the opportunity to learn. This is why we support the proposed merger and call for its approval.

Very Sincerely,

Robert W. Mendenhall
President

CC:

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell